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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/081,973	02/21/2002	Tetsu Shigetomi	450100-03762	2209
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EXAMINER				
JONES, HEATHER RAE				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/081,973

Applicant(s)

SHIGETOMI ET AL.

Examiner

HEATHER R. JONES

Art Unit

2621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 March 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5 and 8-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5 and 8-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on March 17, 2008 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2-5 and 8-31 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 8, 3, 4, 9-12, 15-17, 19, 21-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura et al. (U.S. Patent 7,013,477) in view of Daniels (U.S. Patent 6,973,669) in view of Suito et al. (U.S. Patent 6,285,818) in view of Kitsukawa et al. (U.S. Patent 6,282,713).

Regarding claim 8, Nakamura et al. discloses an information reproducing apparatus comprising: a receiver for receiving broadcast information and selecting a signal therefrom that includes commercial broadcast information having a supplied sequence (Fig. 2; col. 12, lines 17-35); a storing means (26) for storing a sequentially supplied series of the broadcast information (col. 12, lines 17-35; col. 14, lines 12-20); a commercial detecting means for detecting the commercial broadcast information from the received broadcast information based on predetermined identification information contained in the received broadcast information (col. 12, lines 17-35 – the CM start unit (23) corresponds to a CM detecting unit); a reproducing means for reproducing broadcast information stored in the storing means (col. 14, lines 21-25); and an inputting means for inputting a commercial designation signal for designating the commercial broadcast information to be reproduced at the reproducing means (Fig. 5; col. 14, line 25 – col. 15, line 8). However, Nakamura fails to disclose a controlling means for sequentially reading the series of broadcast information from the storing means and making the reproducing means reproduce the same in accordance with the supplied sequence, generating image information corresponding to the detected commercial broadcast information and combining the same with the reproduced image of the series of broadcast information, and making the reproducing means reproduce the combined image information, and, when the commercial designation signal is input, reading the commercial broadcast information designated by the related commercial designation signal

from the storing means and making the reproduction means reproduce the commercial broadcast information, and, in the following reproduction of the series of broadcast information, reproducing the broadcast information while not reproducing, but skipping over the commercial broadcast information which has not been already reproduced, wherein the commercial detecting means detects the commercial broadcast information based on detecting scene changes where broadcast information changes discontinuously and detects the commercial broadcast information based on a time interval at which said detected scene changes occur in the reproduced image or based on detecting the commercial broadcast information based on fluctuations in the reproduced sound level of the broadcast information, wherein a still image of a header portion of the commercial broadcast information or text or graphics indicating information relating to the commercial broadcast information is displayed at a predetermined portion on the screen that is separate from the broadcast portion during reproduction of the broadcast portion, and wherein a commercial broadcast is reproduced in any desired order by selection from the still image or text or graphics displayed at the predetermined portion on the screen.

Referring to the Daniels reference, Daniels discloses an apparatus comprising a controlling means for sequentially reading the series of broadcast information from the storing means and making the reproducing means reproduce the same in accordance with the supplied sequence, generating image information corresponding to the detected commercial broadcast

information and combining the same with the reproduced image of the series of broadcast information, and making the reproducing means reproduce the combined image information, and, when the commercial designation signal is input, reading the commercial broadcast information designated by the related commercial designation signal from the storing means and making the reproduction means reproduce the commercial broadcast information, and, in the following reproduction of the series of broadcast information, reproducing the broadcast information while not reproducing, but skipping over the commercial broadcast information which has not been already reproduced (Fig. 17; col. 25, line 60 – col. 26, line 3).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have displayed the commercials at the same time as the program as disclosed by Daniels with the apparatus disclosed by Nakamura et al. so that the user can keep watching their program and only pause when they see a commercial in the corner that interests them. However, Nakamura et al. in view of Daniels still fail to disclose that the commercial detecting means detects the commercial broadcast information based on detecting scene changes where broadcast information changes discontinuously and detects the commercial broadcast information based on a time interval at which said detected scene changes occur in the reproduced image or based on detecting the commercial broadcast information based on fluctuations in the reproduced sound level of the broadcast information, wherein a still image of a

header portion of the commercial broadcast information or text or graphics indicating information relating to the commercial broadcast information is displayed at a predetermined portion on the screen that is separate from the broadcast portion during reproduction of the broadcast portion, and wherein a commercial broadcast is reproduced in any desired order by selection from the still image or text or graphics displayed at the predetermined portion on the screen.

Referring to the Suito et al. reference, Suito et al. discloses commercial detecting means detects the commercial broadcast information based on detecting scene changes where broadcast information changes discontinuously and detects the commercial broadcast information based on a time interval at which said detected scene changes occur in the reproduced image or based on detecting the commercial broadcast information based on fluctuations in the reproduced sound level of the broadcast information (col. 4, lines 14-27).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have utilized any method of detecting commercial broadcasts in the information reproducing apparatus disclosed by Nakamura et al. in view of Daniels in order to have a better quality commercial detector. However, Nakamura et al. in view of Daniels in view of Suito et al. still fail to disclose wherein a still image of a header portion of the commercial broadcast information or text or graphics indicating information relating to the commercial broadcast information is displayed at a predetermined portion on the

screen that is separate from the broadcast portion during reproduction of the broadcast portion, and wherein a commercial broadcast is reproduced in any desired order by selection from the still image or text or graphics displayed at the predetermined portion on the screen.

Referring to the Kitsukawa et al. reference, Kitsukawa et al. discloses an information reproducing apparatus wherein a still image of a header portion of the commercial broadcast information or text or graphics indicating information relating to the commercial broadcast information is displayed at a predetermined portion on the screen that is separate from the broadcast portion during reproduction of the broadcast portion, and wherein a commercial broadcast is reproduced in any desired order by selection from the still image or text or graphics displayed at the predetermined portion on the screen (Figs. 5 and 10; col. 7, line 61 – col. 8, line 36 - the user can pick any commercial from the still images they want to view in any order).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have displayed the commercial using simple graphics on the display at the same time as the broadcast so that the user can choose whichever commercials they want to see in any order as disclosed by Kitsukawa et al. with the information reproducing apparatus as disclosed by Nakamura et al. in view of Daniels in view of Suito et al. in order to provide on-demand electronic advertising information provided for items used in scenes of

television programs and to allow the user to choose commercials they are interested in.

Regarding claim 3, Nakamura et al. in view of Daniels in view of Suito et al. in view of Kitsukawa et al. discloses all the limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 1 including that the controlling means sequentially reads said detected commercial broadcast information from said storing means in accordance with a sequence by which said commercial broadcast information was supplied (Nakamura et al: Fig. 4; col. 14, lines 12-20).

Regarding claim 4, Nakamura et al. in view of Daniels in view of Suito et al. in view of Kitsukawa et al. discloses all the limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 1 including that the controlling means sequentially reads commercial broadcast information specified by an address of a head part stored in the storing means and a data length identification information from designated in the storing means (Nakamura et al: Fig. 4; col. 14, lines 12-20).

Regarding claim 9, Nakamura et al. in view of Daniels in view of Suito et al. in view of Kitsukawa et al. discloses all the limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 8 including that the controlling means suspends reproduction of said series of broadcast information and makes the reproducing means reproduce designated commercial broadcast information when said commercial designation signal is input (Nakamura et al.: Fig. 5; col. 14, line 25 – col. 15, line 8).

Regarding claim **10**, Nakamura et al. in view of Daniels in view of Suito et al. in view of Kitsukawa et al. discloses all the limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim **8**, including that the controlling means combines a still image of a reproduced image of the detected commercial broadcast information and a reproduced image of the series of broadcast information and makes the reproducing means reproduce the same (Kitsukawa et al.: Fig. 5).

Regarding claim **11**, Nakamura et al. in view of Daniels in view of Suito et al. in view of Kitsukawa et al. discloses all the limitations as previously discussed with respect to claims **8** and **10** including that the controlling means erases the still image of said commercial broadcast information from a display area of said reproducing means in the subsequent reproduction of the series of broadcast information when commercial broadcast information has been reproduced in accordance with said commercial designation signal (Kitsukawa et al.: Fig. 6).

Regarding claim **12**, Nakamura et al. in view of Daniels in view of Suito et al. in view of Kitsukawa et al. discloses all the limitations as previously discussed with respect to claims **8** and **10** including the controlling means changes the still image of the commercial broadcast information to a predetermined image showing the commercial broadcast information finished being reproduced in the subsequent reproduction of the series of broadcast information when commercial broadcast information has been reproduced in accordance with the commercial designation signal (Kitsukawa et al.: Fig. 6 – after watching the commercial an

indication to the user is given as to whether to store the commercial or to erase the commercial, therefore letting the user know that the commercial is finished).

Regarding claim **13**, Nakamura et al. in view of Daniels in view of Suito et al. in view of Kitsukawa et al. discloses all the limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 1 including that the controlling means sequentially reads commercial broadcast information specified by an address of a head part stored in the storing means and a data length identification information from designated in the storing means (Nakamura et al.: Fig. 4; col. 14, lines 12-20).

Regarding claims **15** and **16**, Nakamura et al. in view of Daniels in view of Suito et al. in view of Kitsukawa et al. discloses commercial detecting means detects the commercial broadcast information based on detecting scene changes where broadcast information changes discontinuously and detects the commercial broadcast information based on a time interval at which said detected scene changes occur in the reproduced image or based on detecting the commercial broadcast information based on fluctuations in the reproduced sound level of the broadcast information (Suito et al.: col. 4, lines 14-27).

Regarding claims **17** and **19**, these are method claims corresponding to the apparatus claims 8 and 3. Therefore, claims 17 and 19 are analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claims 8 and 3.

Regarding claims **21** and **22**, this is a method claim corresponding to the apparatus claim 8. Therefore, claims 21 and 22 are analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claim 8.

Regarding claims **23** and **24**, these are method claims corresponding to the apparatus claims 8 and 9. Therefore, claims 23 and 24 are analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claims 8 and 9.

Regarding claims **25-27**, these are method claims corresponding to the apparatus claims 10-12. Therefore, claims 25-27 are analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claims 10-12.

Regarding claims **29** and **30**, this is a method claim corresponding to the apparatus claims 15 and 16. Therefore, claims 29 and 30 are analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claims 15 and 16.

5. Claims 2 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura et al. in view of Daniels in view of Suito et al. in view of Kitsukawa et al. as applied to claims 8 and 17 above, and further in view of Barritz et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0019769).

Regarding claim **2**, Nakamura et al. in view of Daniels in view of Suito et al. in view of Kitsukawa et al. discloses all the limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 1, but fails to disclose that the controlling means generates a viewing confirmation message at least one time, makes the reproducing means reproduce it, and suspends a read operation of the broadcast information from the storing means at the time of reproduction of the commercial broadcast information and restarts the read operation of said broadcast information when a response signal with respect to the related viewing confirmation message is detected.

Referring to the Barritz et al., Barritz et al. discloses an information reproducing apparatus disclosing a viewing confirmation message at least one time, makes the reproducing means reproduce it, and suspends a read operation of the broadcast information from the storing means at the time of reproduction of the commercial broadcast information and restarts the read operation of said broadcast information when a response signal with respect to the related viewing confirmation message is detected (paragraph [0117]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided the message system as disclosed by Barritz et al. with the information reproducing apparatus disclosed by Nakamura et al. in view of Daniels in view of Suito et al. in view of Kitsukawa et al. in order to determine viewer presence during commercials.

Regarding claim **18**, this is a method claim corresponding to the apparatus claim 2. Therefore, claim 18 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claim 2.

6. Claims 5, 14, 20, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura et al. in view of Daniels in view of Suito et al. in view of Kitsukawa et al. as applied to claims 8 and 17 above, and further in view of Levy (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0192060)

Regarding claim **5**, Nakamura et al. in view of Daniels in view of Suito et al. in view of Kitsukawa et al. discloses all the limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 8, but fails to disclose that the commercial detecting means

detects the commercial broadcast information based on electronic watermark information included in image data of the broadcast information.

Referring to the Levy reference, Levy discloses detecting commercial broadcast information based on electronic watermark information (paragraph [0035]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have detected commercial broadcasts based on electronic watermark information in the information reproducing apparatus disclosed by Nakamura et al. in view of Daniels in view of Suito et al. in view of Kitsukawa et al. to provide the apparatus with a better quality commercial detector.

Regarding claim 14, Nakamura et al. in view of Daniels in view of Suito et al. in view of Kitsukawa et al. discloses all the limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 8, but fails to disclose that the commercial detecting means detects the commercial broadcast information based on electronic watermark information included in image data of the broadcast information.

Referring to the Levy reference, Levy discloses detecting commercial broadcast information based on electronic watermark information (paragraph [0035]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have detected commercial broadcasts based on electronic watermark information in the information reproducing apparatus

disclosed by Nakamura et al. in view of Daniels to provide the apparatus with a better quality commercial detector.

Regarding claim **20**, this is a method claim corresponding to the apparatus claim 5. Therefore, claim 20 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claim 5.

Regarding claim **28**, this is a method claim corresponding to the apparatus claim 14. Therefore, claim 28 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claim 14.

7. Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura et al. (U.S. Patent 7,013,477) in view of Dimitri et al. (U.S. Patent 6,574,424).

Regarding claim **31**, Nakamura et al. discloses an information reproducing method comprising: receiving sequentially supplied broadcast information having a first sequence of broadcast portions and a second sequence of commercial portions, the commercial portions separating the broadcast portions (Fig. 2; col. 12, lines 17-35); and storing the sequential broadcast information in the sequence as received (col. 12, lines 17-35; col. 14, lines 12-20). However, Nakamura et al. fails to disclose reproducing the stored broadcast information in a changed sequence by first reproducing all the commercial portions in the second sequence; and subsequently reproducing broadcast portions in the first sequence, wherein the commercial portions are not reproduced at the same time as the broadcast portions.

Referring to the Dimitri et al. reference, Dimitri et al. disclose an information reproducing method wherein once the first broadcast sequence is stored and the commercial sequence is stored then the user can reproduce the stored broadcast information in a changed sequence by first reproducing all the commercial portions in the second sequence; and subsequently reproducing broadcast portions in the first sequence, wherein the commercial portions are not reproduced at the same time as the broadcast portions (abstract, col. 2, lines 17-26).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have altered the sequence of the commercials and broadcast information as disclosed by Dimitri et al. with the information reproducing method disclosed by Nakamura et al. in order to allow the user the option of when they would like to view the commercials thereby making the method and apparatus more user friendly.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HEATHER R. JONES whose telephone number is (571)272-7368. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Thurs.: 7:00 am - 4:30 pm, and every other Fri.: 7:00 am - 3:30 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached on 571-272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/John W. Miller/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2623

Heather R Jones
Examiner
Art Unit 2621

HRJ
March 28, 2008